

ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM STATEMENT ON THE COMMEMORATION OF 30 YEARS OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM

The 30th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was held on 14 July 2023, in Jakarta, Indonesia, under Indonesia's 2023 ASEAN Chairmanship, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of its establishment.

RECALLING the remarkable contribution of the ARF, as an ASEAN-led mechanism, since its establishment in 1994 to the maintenance of peace, stability, security, prosperity, and cooperation in the region;

RECOGNISING the critical role of the ARF, building on its development over the past 30 years in serving as a key platform to foster constructive dialogue and consultation on political and security issues of common interest and concern, which in turn has made significant contributions towards the efforts of building trust, confidence, and preventive diplomacy and as such further promoting peace, security, and stability in the Asia-Pacific region;

EMPHASISING the leading role of ASEAN in the ARF and **REAFFIRMING** that its success depends on the active, inclusive, constructive, full, equal, and effective participation and cooperation of all ARF Participants;

RECALLING the principal documents that lay the groundwork and guide the work of the ARF, including the 1995 ARF Concept Paper, the 2009 ARF Vision Statement, the 2011 Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy, the ARF Ha Noi Plan of Action II (2020-2025), and the 2022 ARF Statement to Promote Peace, Stability, and Prosperity through Confidence-Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy;

REAFFIRMING the responsibility of all Participants to uphold the principles of the United Nations Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, and calling on all nations to exercise maximum self-restraint and make utmost efforts to pursue peaceful dialogue through all channels, including diplomatic means to reduce tensions and mitigate conflicts;

RECOGNISING that the ARF principles and guiding approaches, including decision-making by consensus, have enabled the ARF Participants to move the ARF process forward at a pace comfortable to all, through ARF's evolutionary approach of promotion of confidence-building measures, development of preventive diplomacy and elaboration of approaches to conflict resolution;

AFFIRMING the importance of the areas of cooperation in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific to strengthen and give new momentum for the ASEAN-centred regional architecture to better face challenges and seize opportunities arising from the current and future regional and global environments;

RECOGNISING the impacts and uncertainties posed by the growing complexities of regional and global security challenges and **ACKNOWLEDGING** that such challenges require a holistic and comprehensive approach;

UNDERLINING the need to revitalise the ARF and maintain its relevance in the evolving regional security architecture as well as its ability to adapt, exercise flexibility, and respond effectively to emerging challenges that could undermine regional peace, security, and stability in the Asia-Pacific region through cooperation on confidence-building measures and preventive diplomacy;

DO HEREBY ENDEAVOUR TO:

1. Reaffirm ASEAN unity and centrality as the driving force in upholding an open, transparent and inclusive regional architecture, anchored in international law, that maintains and promotes regional peace, stability, prosperity, and peaceful resolution of disputes without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Charter;
2. Promote constructive dialogue and enhance cooperation among the ARF Participants on political and security issues of common interest and concern, and further contribute to the maintenance of peace, security, and stability in the region, including through managing, addressing, and reducing threats to regional peace and security, as well as identifying potential areas of cooperation among the ARF Participants;
3. Preserve and enhance the peace and prosperity of the region by enhancing the effectiveness of the ARF and its working process, taking into account the growing complexities of regional and global security challenges impacting the region;
4. Promote active, inclusive, full, and equal participation, as well as constructive contributions of all ARF Participants to the advancement of the ARF and its agreed-upon initiatives;
5. Enhance further the engagement between Track I and Track II in the ARF, as well as partnership ties between the ARF and other regional and international organisations particularly by exchanging ideas, experiences, and best practices;
6. Revisit the 1995 ARF Concept Paper with a view to strengthening the ARF as a key platform for dialogue and consultation on regional political and security issues of common interest and concern in the Asia-Pacific region, without duplicating the efforts of existing ASEAN-led mechanisms, and support the development of preventive diplomacy in the ARF process while continuing work on the confidence-building measures;
7. Task the ARF Senior Officials to deliberate on the ARF's roles, achievements, and challenges over the past 30 years to provide recommendations for the future direction of the ARF and submit a progress report to the 31st ARF.

Adopted in Jakarta, Indonesia, 14 July 2023